

REMARKS

This application is submitted as a US National Phase Application of PCT Application No PCT/IL2005/000140, filed on February 4, 2005.

The Examiner who conducted the Search Report rejected claims 1-8 for lacking novelty and/or inventive step in view of US 4,936,299 to *Erlandson* ("D1"). Applicants respectfully disagree with this indication.

In the present application Claim 1 recites a rehabilitation device which includes an actuator that has a movement mechanism capable of "...applying a force that interacts with a motion of a patient's limb..." and "...preventing substantial motion in any point in any direction in said volume...". These limitations are quoted from the claims, are by way of example only, and merely represent exemplary features which the Applicants regard as novel and inventive in view of the cited reference.

In contrast, D1 only describes embodiments which use an end effector (14) attached to the end of a robotic arm (12) which is capable of moving the end effector to selected predetermined locations and/or a predetermined alignment with respect to the patient. The end effector (14) is merely a sensor pad which the patient touches with his fingers in order to perform exercise. This end effector is not gripped by or fastened to the patient in any manner.

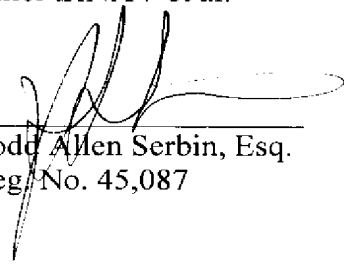
D1 does not describe a movement mechanism which applies a force that interacts with a motion of the patient's limb. For this reason alone the present invention is novel in view of D1, however, it is also not described is how the apparatus of D1 would prevent substantial motion of the patient in any point in any direction. Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation in D1 to combine it with another reference to prevent substantial motion of the patient in any point in any direction.

Therefore, the present claim 1 is both novel and inventive in view of D1. The dependent claims 2-8 are patentable at the very least because they depend from patentable independent claim 1.

An allowance of the claims is respectfully awaited. In the event that the Examiner believes that there are problems which would make it impossible to issue an allowance for all the claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468, which is a US toll free number connected directly to our office in Israel (please note the 7 hour time difference and the official work week is from Sunday to Thursday).

Respectfully submitted,

Omer EINAV et al.



Todd Allen Serbin, Esq.
Reg/No. 45,087

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William H. Dippert, Esq.
Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen LLP
250 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10177

Tel: (212) 986-1116